

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please cancel the pending abstract, and substitute the enclosed amended abstract therefor.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

New copies of Figures 1 to 4 are included in triplicate as color photographs in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.84(b)(2). A Petition Under Rule 1.84(a)(2) to accept color photographs and the \$130.00 petition fee are also enclosed, together with black-and-white photocopies of the color photographs.

New copies of Figures 5 to 36 are also being provided with a different identification key which clearly associates each profile with the proper element. The marker symbols in the key have been circled in red, as has a representative marker symbol on each line of each figure. The Examiner's approval of these drawings is requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the specification pages 1-23, and insert the enclosed substitute specification, pages 1-24, therefor pursuant to Rule 1.125(b). The substitute specification contains no new matter. One clean copy of the substitute specification is provided, as well as one marked-up copy showing the changes in the substitute specification relative to the specification as it stood immediately prior to this amendment. (The pagination of the clean and marked-up copies are different due to different fonts being used for each).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-11, 13-22, and 24-28 as follows.

- B1
- 1 1. (amended) A conversion layer comprising chromium(III), said conversion layer
 - 2 being chromium(VI)-free, said conversion layer being a substantially coherent conversion
 - 3 layer on zinc or a zinc alloy, wherein even in the absence of silicate, cerium, aluminum and
 - 4 borate said conversion layer presents a corrosion protection of about 100 to 1000 h in the salt
 - 5 spray test according to DIN 50021 SS or ASTM B 117-73 until first attack according to DIN
 - 6 50961 Chapter 10; said conversion layer being hard and resistant to wiping.